

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action dated August 3, 2004, have been carefully considered by Applicants. Claims 1 through 22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 stand rejected. Independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 21 are amended. Dependent claim 7 is amended to have proper antecedent basis. Claims 23, 24, 25, and 26 are new. Applicants assert that no new matter has been added to the present application and that all amended and new claims are supported in the specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner.

Applicants believe that the claims of the present application are patently distinct over the cited prior art and reasons are presented below. However, in light of the cited art, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 21 in order to further clarify the patently distinct claims of the present application over the cited prior art. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the patently distinct claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 16-18, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Stevenson, et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2004/0119599). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 requires a self-powered wireless switch assembly coupled to the seatbelt, where the self-powered wireless switch assembly includes an energy harvesting element that generates electrical power, a capacitor storing power received from the energy harvesting element, and a wireless transmitter that transmits a wireless status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state. *Stevenson* teaches that piezoelectric element 14 includes a piezoelectric material that when snapped, a single, high voltage pulse constituting the electrical signal is delivered to the transmitter. (*Stevenson*, paragraph [0023], lines 1-14). *Stevenson* teaches that the transmitter includes a tuned LC circuit that determines the frequency of the transmitter. (see *Stevenson*, paragraph [0030]-[0033]). *Stevenson* teaches also, "the circuits can utilize a power source other than the piezoelectric element 14. For example, one or more batteries could be incorporated within the buckle to supply the transmitter with energy." (*Stevenson*, paragraph [0041], lines 1-8). *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest a self-powered wireless switch assembly includes an energy harvesting element that generates electrical power. Moreover, *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest a self-powered wireless switch assembly that also includes a capacitor that stores power received from the energy harvesting

element. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn as *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 are also believed to be allowable since they each depend from independent claim 1. Additionally, claim 2 requires the energy harvesting element that includes a piezoelectric material and claim 3 requires the energy harvesting element that includes an antenna for capturing stray radiant radio frequency energy. The Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action, “[t]he energy harvesting element comprises a piezoelectric material and an antenna 22 capturing stray radiant radio frequency energy.” While it is true that *Stevenson* discloses a piezoelectric material and an antenna, *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest an energy harvesting element that includes a piezoelectric material as required by claim 2. Moreover, *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest the energy harvesting element that includes an antenna for capturing stray radiant radio frequency energy as required by claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn as *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 2 and 3.

Claim 7 is also believed to be allowable since it depends from independent claim 1. Additionally, claim 7 further requires in the device of claim 1 a receiver receiving a wireless signal and generates an electrical request signal corresponding to the wireless signal. Applicants agree with the Examiner that *Stevenson* teaches a receiver 20 for receiving the wireless seat belt status signal. (*Stevenson*, paragraph [0020]). Moreover, *Stevenson* teaches, “... the receiver is located in a position on the vehicle where it can accurately receive the wireless signal being sent by each transmitter.” (*Stevenson*, paragraph [0034], line 4-6). *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest in the device of claim 1 a receiver receiving a wireless signal and generates an electrical request signal corresponding to the wireless signal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn as *Stevenson* fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 7.

Claims 16-18, 21 and 22 are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons given for claims 1, 2, and 3 above.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 13, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stevenson, et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2004/0119599).

Dependent claims 6, 13, 19 and 20 depend from independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 16, respectively. Independent claims 1, 8, and 16 are believed to be patentable because the cited

reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claims as mentioned herein. Accordingly, the dependent claims are allowable when the independent claims are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 8-12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stevenson, et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2004/0119599) in view of *Gupta, et al.* (U.S. Pat. 6,688,700). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 8 is also believed to be allowable for the same reasons given for claim 1 above. Specifically, *Stevenson* in view of *Gupta* fail to teach or suggest a self-powered wireless switch assembly includes an energy harvesting element that generates electrical power. Moreover, *Stevenson* in view of *Gupta* fail to teach or suggest a self-powered wireless switch assembly that also includes a capacitor that stores power received from the energy harvesting element. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn as *Stevenson* in view of *Gupta* fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1.

Claims 9-12, 14 and 15 are also believed to be allowable as depending from independent claim 8.

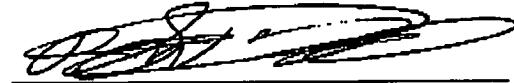
Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-22 and new claims 23-26 are allowable and in proper condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance indicating the same is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any unresolved matters remain.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account 06-1510.

Respectfully Submitted,

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